Northampton Mercury&Citizen

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The past week in headlines

At-a-glance news...

Man fined for laser stunt

Thur, Mar 26 -A man from Northampton was fined £1,000 for shining a laser pen at a police helicopter



Bid for extra rail carriage

Wed, Apr 1 – London Midland train firm applied for more carriages to ease overcrowding on Northampton routes.



Obama flies in for G20

Tue, Mar 31 -**US President** Barack Obama lew to the UK for a summit with world leaders



School meals beating targets

A CAMPAIGN to encourage pupils to eat more healthily has led to an extra 1,300 children having free school meals in Northamptonshire.

Take-up of free school meals has increased by 35 per cent since 2007.

County councillor Joan Kirkbride, the cabinet member for children and young people, said: "These figures are fantastic news.

"We have smashed our target of 10 per cent and week-byweek the number of children having free school meals is increasing.

"It's so important we give children the best possible chance in life by ensuring they eat good nutritious food to assist their learning.

"I would still urge all those people who think they are entitled to free school meals to get in touch and ensure, through healthy and nutritious food, their child is getting the best out of their school day.

The county council started its drive to improve healthy eating in schools and help children

get the right food in 2006. A total of 7,486 children now have free school meals, compared with 5,539 in January 2007. Anyone who thinks they qualify for free schools meals can call Northampton 236656.

Elite teachers to lift grades



SCHOOLS in Northamptonshire are to recruit an elite team of troubleshooting teachers in a bid to improve classroom standards across the county.

Northamptonshire County Council has launched a nationwide campaign to compile a 10-strong team of teachers who will be deployed into primary schools where performance is judged to be below standard.

Currently, the county has a high proportion of schools in Ofsted's Notice to Improve and special measures status, while overall performance at Key Stage 2 for pupils aged seven to 11 - is below the national average.

The teachers, who will already have a proven track record of excellence in leadership and teaching capability, will provide hands-on work in the classroom to ensure children are getting first class teaching.

The costs of the new elite teaching squad will be met directly by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Councillor Joan Kirkbride, the council's cabinet member for children and young people, said: "We're looking for highlytalented individuals who want to do something challenging and rewarding.
"While the main aim is

to ensure individual schools will benefit from the expertise and experience of outstanding teachers, we're pleased there will be an overall benefit for the whole county of attracting yet more first class people."
The authority is expected

to have the team in place for the start of the 2009/10 academic year in Septem-

It will be employed centrally by the county council.

The jobs are being advertised in the national press this week and details can also be viewed at www. teachnorthamptonshire.org.

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Numbers

10: Home Secretary Jacqui Smith was at the centre of an expenses row this week, when it was discovered she had claimed £10 for adult movies watched by her husband, Richard Timney. The news came in a week when it was revealed taxpayers paid a total of £93 million to furnish politicians' houses and travel, among other expenses.





5 million: It was revealed this week that more than five million people now have their DNA profile stores on the Government's controversial database. The amount has risen by 40 per cent in two years and is up by 1.4 million since early 2007.

17,000: Cambodian jailer Kaing Guek Eav was standing trial in Phnom Penh this week accused of being responsible for the deaths of 17,000 people. Jailer Kaing Guek Eav is the first senior official to stand trial from the reign of Cambodian dictator Pol Pot, which is thought to have seen the deaths of nearly two million people between 1975

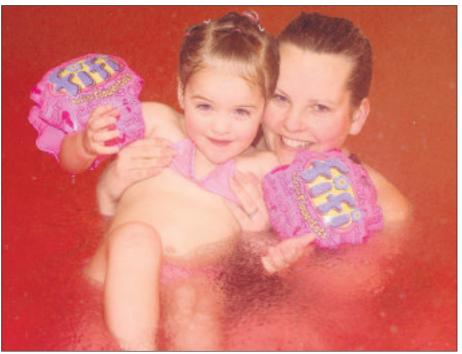




6,000: The estimated amount of police officers on duty in London as the world's leaders arrived in the UK for the G20 summit. The £7.5 million security operation was centred on the ExCel Centre where US president Barack Obama was joining Gordon Brown and other top politicians.

National and international news SIX DAYS A WEEK in the Chronicle & Echo

The Week in Pool looks pretty pink



Paige Macrae, three, and Donna Macrae enjoy the new look at Danes Camp leisure pool

SWIMMERS at Danes Camp Leisure Centre in Northampton splashed around in pink water to celebrate the reopening of the pool following a £60,000 overhaul.

The leisure centre, in Merefield, has been closed for the past week, while workers installed the new equipment to dye the pool water as well as a new water slide and pirate ship.

Money for the improvements came from within Northampton Borough Council's capital funds and a Government grant, as part of a free swimming scheme for under 16s and over-60s which is due to begin tomorrow.

Councillor Brendan Glynane, (Lib Dem, Delapre), Northampton Borough Council's cabinet member for leisure, said: "I am really pleased with how it has turned out and, with the Easter holidays coming up, I think it is going to be pretty busy.

"Some people might say that, in a time of a recession, the council should not be spending money on facilities like this. But the last time money was spent on this leisure centre was in 1998 and it is about time the equipment was renewed for the people of Northampton and their children."

Young He, a swimming instructor from West Haddon, who was at the pool for the reopening, said: "It looks like something out of the Caribbean. I think it is nice to have a new image for the children to enjoy. I saw an adult looking excited under one of the new water features as well."

Michael Foster, who was at the swimming pool with his daughter, Sarah, and granddaughter, Lettie, two, said: "I think it was a good thing for the council to do. It seems like the children all like it. I think it is a good way of introducing children to water so they do not have such a fear of it.'

Over-60s can swim for free once they have paid a £2 charge for an identity card for the scheme.

The borough council has agreed to pay this charge for under-16s.

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NHS to cut sick rates

MANAGERS at Northampton General Hospital have pledged to reduce absenteeism after it was revealed staff were taking an average of about 10 days off sick a year.

a year.

The hospital has worked out that five per cent of its working days were lost in the past year, because of sickness.

The local rate is slightly higher than the NHS's average of 4.5 per cent of working days lost.

There are about 3,800 staff at the trust, which suggests that, taking holidays into account, each employee has about 10 days off sick each year.

A spokesman for the hospital said: "The percentage figure is in line with similar NHS trusts and other public sector organisations, although the trust is working to reduce it."

The figures come after the Reform think-tank suggested NHS staff were taking too much time off sick.

On average, it said, they were taking twice as many sick days as staff at private firms and wasting about £1 billion nationally each year.

However, Northampton General Hospital pointed out that many hospital staff were exposed to infections more than in the average office and that would be likely to give a higher than average sickness rate.

Hospital managers also discourage staff who are unwell from coming to work again until they are free of infection, to avoid making patients and other staff ill.

The hospital offers healthcare and advice to staff and gives flu vaccinations to its workforce every winter

force every winter.

The health trust is starting a recruitment drive to increase the number of permanent staff.

Nine in ten get first choice school

NINE out of 10 pupils in Northamptonshire have been allocated their first choice of primary school, the county council has said.

Letters were sent out on Tuesday informing parents of the primary school place their child has been allocated for 2009.

Figures released by Northamptonshire County Council suggest that only 159 out of the 7,951 pupils – two per cent – have been allocated to a school that was not either their first, second or third choice.

A total of 7,235 pupils – 91 per cent – are believed to have been allocated their first preference and 98 per cent of pupils will be given either their first, second or third preference

A spokesperson from Northamptonshire County Council said: "On Wednesday, April 1, we are sending out letters informing parents of the primary school place their child has been allocated for 2009.

"Those who applied online can view their allocation from 10am on April 1 on our website at www.northamptonshire.govuk/admissions

"Starting at primary school is an important stage in each child's life and every effort has been made to allocate suitable places to county children, with well over 90 per cent of places being allocate to parents' first, second or third preference.

"For anyone unhappy with the place their child

Buses replace Easter trains

has been allocated, details of the appeals process will be provided with the allocation letters and information about how to appeal is available on our website www.north amptonshire.gov.uk/admissions."

There are 237 primary schools in the county and parents have been waiting since autumn 2008 to find out if their child has received their first, second or third choice place.

or third choice place.
Earlier this month, the county council released the figures for secondary school places, which showed that 84 per cent of pupils got what they hoped for.

The county council admissions team could not meet any of the preferences of 233 pupils, who have now been offered alternative schools.

the track in Buckinghamshire

Steve Banaghan, London Midland managing director, said: "We are working closely with Network Rail

to keep disruption to a minimum;

for instance by scheduling the engineering improvements for Easter

Bank Holiday weekend when we know

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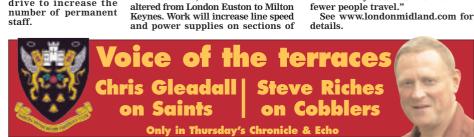
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BUSES will replace trains between

Northampton and Milton Keynes over

Easter because of engineering work on the West Coast Main Line.

day and Bank Holiday Monday passengers will have to use buses between

the two towns, and services will be

On Easter Saturday, Easter Sun-



probably be the same as usual - not very nice. It would be good to see some sun shine

Steve Colliass, from Abington



and we basically don't ever have much of a summer in Britain. I can't see it being any different. Matt Gilbert, of Kingsthorpe





going to be a brilliant summer. It was poor last year and I think it will be much better this time. Terry Logan, Northampton



really want it to be sunny because I'm going to St lves on holiday, but I don't really expect it Lily Plowes, of Brixworth

Jacqui Smith has been at the centre of an expenses row this week. We asked: Should she be sacked?

No, because it is not her fault. I think it is bad that MPs get to claim for all these things though. Francesca Watts, from

Kingsthorpe



Yes. There are some people without any homes and they are get-ting all this money for a second Sarah Toney, of Kingsley





thev should from claiming things Debbie Bond, of Abington

No But



Yes, absolutely right. It is a catalogue of problems she has had. I think she is weak and not strong certain departments Pete Mcalear. of Roade

As the clocks went forward last weekend, we asked people what they expect from this summer... It always rains and we hasi-



PLANS to build the first electronics recycling plant in Nigeria are set to go ahead thanks to waste experts at The University of Northampton.

At the moment in the African country, broken hi-tech electronic equipment - such as computers and other gadgets – is either dumped in landfill sites or melted down to make new products.

But now Margaret Bates, of The University of Northampton, has helped put together plans to build the country's first electronics recycling centre.

She said the plant would prevent people harming their health by melting down plastic components and stop gadgets being buried in the ground.

Dr Bates said: "People in Africa tend to buy second-hand electrical goods and sell them on.

'But the problem is, when thev've reached the end of their life there are no recycling facilities.

Dr Bates, who is part of the university's leading waste management department, has advised the Nigerian

government on the recycling centre plans and will also help train the people who operate it. She said: "The idea is to set up the

recycling facility where all the plastics and metals can be separated. The university will help train people.

"If it works well in Nigeria the plan is to roll it out throughout the rest

Millions of pieces of used electrical equipment are shipped to Africa every While some of the gadgets are good

enough to be used again, many of them have passed the end of their useful lives and need to be recycled.

It is hoped the new recycling centre will help tackle the problem, as it should be up and running by the end of this year.

Dr Bates said: "We hope to have it in place by the end of 2009 and we're hoping to build in other parts of the world too. It's a really nice project for us to be involved in and we hope it will have a really positive impact.

The new centre will be the first facility of its kind in Nigeria and it is thought it will also be the first in



■ Margaret Bates



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Tough powers over drinking

TOUGH new powers to stop drinkers causing trouble on Northampton's streets came into force on Tuesday.

Northampton Borough Council has introduced the measures to tackle the prob-lem of binge drinking and related offences across the

The orders will give police the power to target irre-sponsible drinkers by issuing on-the-spot fines of up to £500.

Deputy council leader Councillor Brendan Glynane (*Lib Dem, Delapre*) said: "These tough controls go a long way to dispel the myth that Liberal Democrats are soft on crime:

we are not.
"We want hard-working

Northamptonians to be able to enjoy a pint on a sunny day outside. But what we will not tolerate is reckless drinking leading to crime and disorder.

"I can't stress enough this isn't a blanket ban on drinking outdoors. People will continue to be able to enjoy a drink in our many parks and open spaces.

"But what these powers will do is give police the assurance that the council is back-ing them all the way in the crackdown against anti-social behaviour and bingedrinking."

The move came after a council survey of more than 500 residents and businesses showed 90 per cent supported the new police powers.



Ride for IOSPI

A NORTHAMPTON hospice is set to benefit when a convoy of Harley-Davidson riders sets off on its sixth annual fundraising April Fools Run.

Around 150 motorcyclists are expected to ride through Northampton town centre on Saturday and spend two hours collecting donations in Abington Street for the Cynthia Spencer Hospice.

The event, organised by former town mayor and current county councillor Terry Wire, together with Dave Barringer from Northants V-Twin, was secured after Towergate Risk Solutions in Northampton

agreed to insure it.

Councillor Wire (Lab, St James) said: "We know there's a worldwide recession, but I hope people will be generous because one-in-three people are affected by cancer.

"It's a worthy cause and I appreciate the support we're getting. I'd like to thank Towergate for their support and both the highways authority and the borough council, as well as David Cardoza at the Cobblers for the use of their car park.

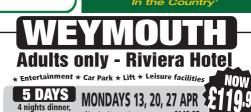
"Í'd also like to encourage the public to come and view all the bikes at Sixfields. We will be leaving between 10.30am and

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David is new r Gladiator

THE £25,000 top prize in the final of television game show Gladiators has been show Gladiators has been show Gladiators has been show the final of television game as wicked feeling."

The father-of-two faced tough competition throughout the heats, show Gladiators has been scooped by a sports lecturer from Northamptonshire.

David Staff, 29, who teaches at Moulton College, battled it out in four demanding events - the duel, gauntlet, hang tough and the pyramid – before tackling the

eliminator with a six-second lead over his rival, Kris Stirk. Mr Staff.

watched the Sky One show last night at a rugby club. alongside his family and friends. He said: "All

through the games, it was pretty close and

on the final game, I got to the top of the pyramid first, so I ended up going into the eliminator with a six-second advantage and the pressure was on."
He added: "The money will

■ Looking at the final scores

come in useful, but the feeling of winning was amazing. When you're involved in it, it is all everyone talks about, so it was

taking on the show's professional gladiators, and even continued with a broken nose through the quarter-final and semi-final rounds.

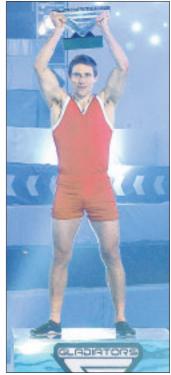
He said: "The gladiators were pretty tough and bigger than they look on the television. I nearly got on the first of the new series

and I really liked it then.

"I'm really into fitness, but the competition was quite gruelling. The experience was wicked for me. Going down there and meeting guys similar to myself was great. My two children came down to the filming with me and

they loved it too. My 18-month-old son was mesmerised.'

Mr Staff, who is also a parttime sports coach for Kettering Borough Council, said his pupils respected him more after seeing his performance on the cult television show, which made its comeback on the satellite channel last



■ David Staff lifts the trophy





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Roads teams in drains blitz

ROAD companies conducted a tidyup operation on a Northampton road which reduced the risk of flooding for residents and businesses.

Northamptonshire's highways company MGWSP descended on St Leonard's Road in Far Cotton with 15 teams of workers to repair road surfaces, streetlights and pave-

They also cleared drains of piles of silt which stops water escaping and can make flooding worse after rainfall.

A spokeswoman for MGWSP said: "We did have some problems moving cars on so we could get to the drains, despite a parking prohibition on the road.

"But we did eventually get done what we needed to and hopefully the clean-up will mean flooding will be less of a problem.

■ Above right, workmen carried out repairs and cleaned up in St Leonard's Road in Far Cotton to help reduce the risk of flooding from blocked drains





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EXHAUSTS

Mobile texts to tackle risk of burglaries

POLICE will be using mobile phone messaging to highlight the risk of burglary to residents of an area of Northamp-

There were 15 burglaries in Semilong in the five weeks from the beginning of February, and police said burglars got into homes through unlocked doors in up to half of the cases. A campaign to cut the number of burglaries in the area began earlier this week.

During the week, police will put footprint-shaped leaflets through unlocked doors to warn people that the next size nine shoes to visit their homes could be from burglars, not from the force.

And for the next week, Bluetooth messages will be sent out in Semilong by police officers, using shortrange technology which allows messages to be sent to and from mobile

Semilong Community Forum chair Zoe Martin commended the scheme, but said she hoped it would be well-publicised.

She said: "I think it's a good idea



■ PCSO Ray Thorpe and PC Lee Stevens patrolling Semilong with the Bluetooth device that will send people messages

as long as it's well advertised and people know who it is trying to contact

them through their phones.
"If the police can use Bluetooth to contact people I think that's bril-

There will also be increased foot patrols and a visit by the mobile police station as part of the crackdown, which is an attempt by police in Northamptonshire West to home in on prolific offenders and tackle

Force crime prevention officer Laura Major appealed to members

of the public to lock their doors and keep car keys out of view. She said: "There is a really easy

way to make your house safer: lock up. Your keys are the best crime prevention device available.

"Being burgled is an upsetting experience and it must be even worse if you know you have made it so easy for the criminal to get in.

"We know for a fact that burglars literally go down a street trying all the doors until they find an open one. You can make sure it's not yours if you keep it locked."

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Disablement Pension Benefit must include Constant Attendance **Allowance**

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WTC Working Tax Credit where household earned income is less than £14,600 per annum

Housing Benefit

Income Support (Incapacity Benefit is not eligible)

DPTC Disabled Persons Tax Credit

Cavity Wall Insulation Price Chart

House Type	Normal Cost	You Pay	Max M ²
2/3 Bed Mid Terraced House	£400	£130	50
2/3 Bed Semi Bungalow	£450	£130	70
2/3 Bed Semi/End Terrace	£500	£130	90
2/3 Bed Detached Bungalow	£650	£130	110
3/4 Bed Detached House	£750	£130	135/140

Loft Insulation Price Chart

Loft Insulation (all house types)

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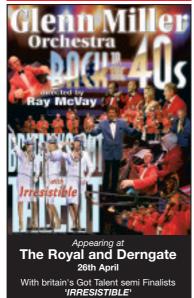
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THE number of jobless people in Northampton has almost doubled in the last year, making it the place worst hit by unemployment in the East Midlands, according to a new report.

A review of how people have been hit by the recession, carried out by comparison website uSwitch, showed the number of people claiming Job Seeker's Allowance in Northampton rose by 96 per cent from March 2008.

In what the website described as a "benefits frenzy", the report said 6,784 Northampton people were now signing on, as of last Thursday.

More people were claiming Job

Seekers' Allowance in the town than in the city centres of Nottingham, Derby and Leicester and the percentage rise in unemployment was far greater than the rest of the region.

Brian Binley, the Conservative MP for Northampton South, said: "I'm not too surprised Northampton is doing worse than other areas, because there are a lot of jobs here in distribution; just look at Brackmills and Swan Valley.

"If companies don't need products to be delivered, then firms here don't need as many jobs. That figure is frightening, but I fear things will get

even worse before it gets better." However, Sally Keeble, Labour's MP for Northampton North, argued the huge percentage rise was down to previously lower-than-average unemployment. But she warned: "I think the situation may be even worse than these figures suggest, because they don't take in loss of shifts or extra part-time jobs which have a big effect on a household's income.'

The website looked at salaries, property prices and council tax across 103 of the UK's largest local authorities, with Northampton rated as 63rd financially best off.

Homeowners in Northampton also seemed to be losing out on house prices, with a drop of 7.3 per cent in property values during 2008, although town estate agents reported last week that sales had risen slightly since Christmas. And those living in Northampton have all spent an average of four per cent more in council tax, as the borough council chose not to follow the 19 local authorities in the UK which froze payments in 2008/2009.

The report did carry some good news, with suggestions that Northampton workers had pocketed average pay rises of six per cent, compared with 2007.

But Mr Binley said he believed many of those wage increases were awarded before companies caught

wind of the economic downturn.

He said: "Wages may have gone up last year, but they certainly won't do so next year.'



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Puzzles

TELEVISION Quiz

- After a 10-year break, Red Dwarf is back on our screens. The new series, which begins on Dave on Friday, April 10, stars the four original lead cast members Danny John-Jules, Chris Barrie, Craig Charles and who else?
- 2 The Wire continues its run on BBCTwo on Monday. What's the name of the British actor who plays trouble-making detective Jimmy McNulty?
- 3. Simon Bird stars in The Inbetweeners, which continues its second

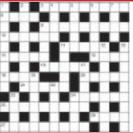
- series on E4 tonight. What's the name of Simon's character?
- 4. Former Blue Peter presenter Matt Baker joins the team of Countryfile on BBC One on Sunday. Which former Newsround host has fronted the show since it began in 1988?
- 5. Cast your mind back. Law & Order: UK concludes on ITV1 on Monday. Bradley Walsh stars in the series. Which game-show did he present after taking over from Nicky Campbell in 1998?

WHAT year is this?

- Hong Kong reverted to Chinese sovereignty
- 2. Katrina and the Waves won the Eurovison Song Contest
- . The Eng<mark>lish Patient w</mark>on nine Oscars
- 4. Bill Clinton (right) was inaugurated as US president for a second term



5. Wheel Of Fortune Dominic West; 3. Will McKenzie; 4. John Craven; A. John Craven; Robert Llewelyn; 2 TELEVISION QUIZ - 1. WHAT YEAR? 1997 Key word solution: Spanner Snap 16. Plan Earn 13. Nips 14. Skis 15 6. Yelp 7. Pass 8. Sash 9. Huge 10. Erse 11. Edge 12. Limb 3. Beer 4. Rust 5. Tidy WORD SPIRAL - 1. Dual 2. SH3WSNA



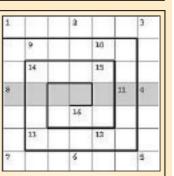
brain power!

More Word Spirals and Crosswords every day in the Chron!

WORD Spiral

Starting from 1, fill in the grid in a clockwise direction. The last letter of each four-letter answer is the first letter of the next word. A correct grid will reveal a seven-letter key word. **CLUES**: 1. Twofold 2. Arm or leg 3. Alcoholic drink 4.

15 11 13 12







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MERCURY & CITIZEN

MP questions cash spending



HOUSEHOLDERS in Eastfield, Northampton, have encountered their MP out trying to find out what they want to spend £2.2 million on when the **Cherry Orchard Middle** School site is sold.

The school was closed in 2005, when Northampton's school system was changed to a two-tier set-up.

When a developer buys the site, it will have to pay some money - thought to be about £2.2 million - towards the com-

munity as part of the deal. Sally Keeble, the Labour MP for Northampton North, said: "We wanted to make sure that the money is used in a way the community wants.

"Some of the research will be done door-to-door and some of it will be done through the post, to find out what the people on the different estates think.

Tony Mallard, an Eastfield

householder who helped Mrs Keeble on her tour of the area. said he thought larger community centres would benefit the area most. He said: "I was originally of the opinion that two small places would be good.

'Several small places do look good on paper, but they would be taking trade away from each other. Eastfield has been in existence for 50 years and it has never had a community centre or anything like that.

"It has a park, but the community focal point should be

a centre of some kind."
One of the doors knocked on by Mrs Keeble during her tour was that of Ruby Freeman, aged 80. She told her MP that she would like to see some

facilities for young people. She said: "There's a lot of good teenagers out there. A recreation centre would be nice.

"I have got some lovely grandchildren and they would like something like that."





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George IV Hotel, Criccieth Monday 27 April 5 days £255 Includes Portmeirion & Porthmadog; Bodnant Garden & Snowdonia; & Plas Newydd Gardens on the Isle of Anglesey.

HIDDEN CORNERS OF YORKSHIRE

Sporting Lodge Hotel, Middlesbrough Monday 6 July 5 days £329 Includes Thirsk, the Wensleydale Railway & Richmond: Preston Park, Tees River Cruise 'Little Switzerland' & Helmsley; the North York Moors Railway & Whitby.

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CONSTABLE COUNTRY Holiday Inn, Ipswich

Monday 29 June 5 days £302 Includes Constable Country & Colchester; Bury St. Edmunds & Lavenham; and rural Suffolk calling at Aldeburgh with a cruise on the River Deben.

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IN the row pictured above in Purser Road, Abington, is a three-bedroom bay-fronted terraced house which is available for rent for £695 per month.

It has entrance hall, lounge, dining room, sitting room/ playroom, kitchen/ breakfast room (pictured right) with double oven, downstairs cloakroom and shower room, three bedrooms and bathroom with shower over bath. There is a paved rear garden.

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- Unfurnished three/four bedroom detached house
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- Furnished three bedroom terraced house
- Sitting room, dining room, breakfast room, fitted kitchen, cellar
 Outside is an enclosed rear garden



TRINITY HOLLOW

- £695 pcm
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- Outside there is reserved parking and gardens



ABINGTON VALE

- £595 pcm
- Furnished two bedroom semi detached bungalow Sitting room, kitchen, conservatory, shower room
- ens to the front and rear and off road parking



EAST HUNSBURY

- Unfurnished three bedroom semi detached house
- Lounge, kitchen/diner, three bedrooms and a bathroom ns and off road parking



£850 pcm



FAR COTTON

£620 pcm

- Unfurnished three bedroom Victorian terrace
- Lounge/dining room, kitchen and bathroom
 Outside there are gardens to the front and rear



SOUTHBRIDGE

- £595 pcm
- Unfurnished two bedroom second floor flat

 Lounge/diner, kitchen, ensuite shower room and main bathroon
- Outside is reserved parking



ABINGTON



- Unfurnished one bedroom apartments
 Open plan living room, luxury kitchen and bathroom
- Outside there is reserved off road parking



ABINGTON

- Part furnished two bedroom victorian terrace Lounge/diner, kitchen and a large bathroom
- Outside to the rear is an enclosed garden



GRANGE PARK

- £550 pcm
- Lounge/diner, luxury kitchen and bathroom Outside are communal gardens and reserved parking



ABINGTON

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- Part-furnished two bedroom Victorian terrace
 Lounge/diner, kitchen, breakfast room, cellar and bathroom
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HARPOLE

- £525 pcm
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- Outside are attractive gardens and ample off road parking
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EAST HUNSBURY

A 2 bedroom Semi Detached house with driveway parking. Large kitchen, Lounge, Bathroom with a power shower. 2 Bedrooms. front and rear gardens. Unfurnished.

£500 pcm



ABINGTON

A 2 Bed Flat on the ground floor . Kitchen with appliances. Bathroom with a jacuzzi bath and a shower over. 2 Double bedrooms, cellar, conservatory. Gas central heating, courtyard rear garden.

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FAR COTTON

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Congratulations to our wonderful parents & grandparents on reaching your Golden wedding. Wishing you many more happy years together.With all our love Eleanor, Neil, Stephen, Senga, lan & Alan, Licks & Woofs from all your furry friends!



Alan & Sylvia **DAVIES**

Are celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Monday, March 30th, 2009

Their marriage took place at St Pauls Church, Egham Hythe, on March 30th 1959 They have been blessed with two Sons and one Daughter, also six Grandchildren, all very much loved.



& DOUGLAS BARKER Married

March 26th, 1949.

Congratulations to

you both on your Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Wishing you both many more happy and healthy years. Love always from Sandra, Glenn, Karen, Mark and Claire



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(nee Ingram) Ray and Vera 26th March 1949. Congratulations

Ray & Vera on your Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

With lots of love from your family Pauline, Ian, Neil, Sarah, Abigail, Oliver, Shelley and Nicole

The family of the late Bill would like to thank relatives. neighbours for the kind thoughts, flowers and donations received on their sad

Special thanks to Reverend Kirby for the lovely service.

CANNELL Robin

5 Years now without my Dad.

It doesn't get any easier.

Love Michelle. Tyrone and Cheryl-Anne

COWLEY — Percy Sidney. Precious

memories of a beloved Husband of Maisie. Father, Grandfather

In Memoriam



Declan Patrick

Taken from us 27/03/06 Death leaves a heartache no one can heal,

GADSDEN Fran

27.3.06

The years add up from when you left But the memories of you are the best oved more each day But we will all meet

again one day Until then Pete, Mum, Sue, Mark, Jackie, Paul, Lisa, Naomi and Sophie

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Love leaves a memory no one can steal.

CANNELL Robin

5 years have passed since we said goodbye, Our memories of you Will never die. Love always Wendy, Steve and Troy x x

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BETTY HOWE

A year ago today he took 'Our lovely Mum Now in Heaven

Reunited with Andy her Son. Andy, look after her please, until we are all together again.

Miss vou lots Mum Love Michael, Linda, Liam, Gordon & family



LONGHURST Mary L Died April 3rd 2007

My life goes on without you But things are not the same It's hard to hide the heartache When someone speaks your name Memories have such lovely ways Of bringing back our yesterdays As you were, you will always be So very special, in my memories God Bless. Love Charles "CHL" xxx

McCLELLAND

McCLELLAND — Rose. In memory of our dear Mum who passed away on April 1st 1980. Always remembered by her loving Son Jimmy, Daughter-in-Law Rose and family.

SPITTLES — Ethel Mary. Died 29th March 1996. Loving wife of Charlie. Mother of Brian, Michael and Roger. Forever in our

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Nanny, Grandad, James and Sharon



ref MKE178003

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Vauxhall **Estate Astra**

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f1999

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03 (52/03/53), Diesei, 124,000, Company car forces sale, good miles to the gallon, Mot, tax, abs, airbag, alarm, p/s, stereo

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Volkswagen

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female owners, very good condition, Tax, a/c, c/l,

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Rover 25

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307

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CV with covering letter should be submitted by post to: Practice Manager, Abington Park Veterinary Surgery 427 Wellingborough Road, Northampton NN1 4EZ

Closing date: 31.03.09 Interviews will take place on Friday April 3rd 2009

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Social Care

JOINT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Are you interested in an exciting development in psychological therapy?

Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust and Milton Keynes Council jointly provide mental health services across the city of Milton Keynes. Joint Mental Health Services are also provided in collaboration with third sector agencies such as Rethink, MIND and City Counselling. Provider Services in Milton Keynes are working in collaboration with the Commissioners to deliver psychological services within Primary Care. Applications are currently being made to the national Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) project for Milton Keynes to become an IAPT site.

The programme will bring with it additional funding which will require expansion of current services to fit in with the national IAPT guidance. The team will deliver a range of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) based psychological interventions through a stepped care treatment model to people with common mental health problems. It will run alongside established counselling and secondary care services in Milton Keynes.

We are committed to developing mental health services for people in Milton Keynes that can be accessed via their GPs and job centres.

In line with the National Agenda to increase access to psychological therapies, the Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust is keen to recruit to the following new posts.

TEAM MANAGER

Band 8a £37,106 - £44,527 pa pro rata

Part-time, 0.6 wte

Are you a versatile and organised team player with great people skills and the ability to motivate others? If the answer is yes, you could join our team and facilitate the development of an exciting new service in Primary Care. You will be contributing to significant service improvements in Milton Keynes with regard to Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT). Your post will be essential to enable the successful implementation of our commitment to further developing mental health services.

PSYCHOLOGICAL THERAPIST (IAPT HIGH INTENSITY WORKER)

Band 7 £29,091 - £38,352 pa (pro rata if part-time)

Full or part-time, min. 0.8 wte

RFF-PSYLI9P

We are seeking a Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) Therapist who is BABCP accredited or in the process of applying to assist us in delivering the new services. You will be required to provide CBT within a stepped care model as well as giving supervision to the High Intensity Trainees and on occasion the Low Intensity Workers. You would be working alongside established and effective counselling services.

MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER (IAPT HIGH INTENSITY WORKER)

Band 6 £24,103 - £32,653 pa (pro rata if part-time)

Full or part-time, min. 0.8 wte

REF: MHP120P

We wish to recruit a person experienced in working in mental health services to provide high intensity interventions within a cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) framework. It is anticipated that you will make a contribution to service delivery providing high intensity interventions. You may (depending on past experience and pre-existing qualifications in psychological therapies to the standards required, see above) be required to attend additional training which would represent topping up your psychological therapy competencies.

GRADUATE MENTAL HEALTH WORKER (IAPT LOW INTENSITY WORKER)

Band 5 £20,225 - £26,123 pa

Full or part-time, min. 0.8 wte

REF: MHW121P

We wish to recruit a person experienced in working in mental health services to provide low intensity interventions (such as CBT, guided self help, behavioural activation, exposure work and other evidenced based low intensity treatments) for people suffering from common mental health problems. You may (depending on past experience and pre-existing qualifications in psychological therapies to the standards required, see above) be required to attend additional training which would represent topping up your psychological therapy competencies.

Members of the team will play a key role in forming the foundations of the future development of Primary Care Mental Health Services, with a focus on service design, implementation and evaluation. The views of service users will be critical to this as well as building links with the third sector, especially

those providing employment and training. We are therefore looking for enthusiastic people who can share in the development of this vision and

who are prepared to undertake further training as needed. Postholders will be expected to work closely with the existing structures of local counselling services;

GP based and secondary care mental health services. The posts will be interesting and challenging; we are looking for motivated individuals who can deliver

on a range of tasks including monitoring of outcomes and taking a positive role in evaluation and development of the service. There will be opportunity to develop quality experience working alongside other health professionals in

different settings Clinical supervision will be provided by the Clinical Psychologists within the Joint Mental Health

Services. There will be an emphasis on regular professional development (CPD).

Effective communication, the ability to work as part of a multi-disciplinary team and computer literacy are essential skills. You will be expected to have access to a car and hold a current full drivers licence.

For an informal discussion and further information please contact Christine D'Netto, Head of Department of Clinical Psychology on (01908) 316524 email christine.d'netto@mkpct.nhs.uk or Mike Fisher, Operational Manager on (01908) 243143 or email mike.fisher@mkpct.nhs.uk

For an application form and job description please visit our website WWW.MILTONKEYNES.NHS.UK or contact Kate Elliott on (01908) 243374 quoting the job reference number.

Closing date: 9th April 2009.

Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust is a progressive equal opportunities employer. An organisation that believes in looking after its staff. Encouragement and support is given for flexible work/life and personal develop We also operate a strict no smoking policy.





Milton Keynes **NHS**

Retail **PHARMACY ASSISTANT**

Part-time To work in our two pharmacies in Wootton. Afternoons and holiday cover. Experience preferred and training provided.

Please e-mail CV to tudorchemist@npanet.co.uk

Sales

Due to expansion and our continuing success, long established, award winning communications company seeks the following positions:

Sales Co-ordinator

This demanding position based at our Market Harborough Office involves a full sales support function to the Corporate Sales Teams, including preparation of quotes, liaising with customers and suppliers. Experience with Word, Excel and Data Bases would be an advantage.

The ideal candidate will be highly organised, self-motivated, and able to work under pressure using their initiative. Full training will be given.

Internal Sales Executive

For this position, you will be required to account manage existing customers and promote a complete portfolio of mobile communications products and services. After training you will be given complete autonomy to negotiate with clients at all levels, therefore the ideal candidate will be money motivated, able to think on their feet, and respond to customer needs.

You will benefit from the backing of a highly trained and experienced administration team.

For both of the above sales positions, full product training, and on-going sales training, will be given to the right candidate who can demonstrate a minimum of 2 years sales experience, with a proven track record, in this, or a related industry.

Targets will be realistic, hence, as well as a good basic salary, you will benefit from an un-capped commission scheme, a bonus scheme, company pension, company car and healthcare.

If you think you have the right attributes to join this dynamic company, please send your C.V. and hand written cover letter, giving details of current salary and experience to:
Chris Stanton
Welcomm Communications Ltd
24 The Point, Rockingham Road
Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 7QU

- A responsible and flexible person is required to support an active, disabled man with personal care, correspondence, household tasks and local appointments. Kingsthorpe area, 15hrs pw. flexible. Mon Fri f7 per hr. For jobpack please phone 01933 225783 quoting ref JF 05/05/GS.
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 G u i I s b o r o u g h,
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Full Time Days

Registered Nurse - we are seeking a highly motivated person committed to providing nursing care for our elderly residents who is able to work alongside and supervise our Care and Trained Staff. Previous experience in a Care Home environment preferred but not essential. Must possess excellent written and verbal communication skills. Excellent training opportunities and ongoing management support available

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As Store Manager, you'll ensure our customers enjoy the very best shopping experience. To achieve this, you'll maintain the very highest standards of presentation and hygiene while ensuring stock levels remain consistent. Furthermore, you'll develop your staff team to allow them to reach their full

potential while promoting the very finest customer services. A natural leader and motivator with previous managerial experience, you'll

have a practical, hands-on and flexible approach together with knowledge of current health & food safety and trading standards legislation. As you'll be joining a fast paced retail environment, we require a unique individual ideally

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Metafix (UK) Limited **E-Commerce Administrator**

Metafix (UK) Ltd has an opening for an exciting new opportunity as an e-commerce administrator.

We have recently taken on the distribution of an innovative range of photographic accessories for the UK & Ireland. We are looking for an energetic person to maintain an ecommerce website for this new venture, they will also be sponsible for accurately listing these products onto other internet based selling channels

The position would suit a person with excellent skills of website design and maintenance, and customer service. You must also have very good communication skills and be able to use the range of Microsoft office products

Applicants should reply in writing with a CV to Mr Tony Corbett, Service Manager, Metafix (UK) Ltd, 1 Dean Close, Enterprise Road, Raunds, Northants. NN9 6BD.

Applicants can also email a CV with covering letter to jobs@metafix.co.uk

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Voyage is a national leader in the provision of care and support for individuals with learning disabilities and

As part of our ongoing development, we will be opening a purpose built registered care home Rockingham Road in Corby, Northamptonshire. The service will support 12 individuals with learning disabilities and associated multiple/complex needs including forensic histories and mental health issues. The staff team will all play an integral role in supporting and empowering the service users to integrate into the community and to achieve their goals within a safe yet homely environment.

We are now seeking to recruit for the following positions:

REGISTERED MANAGER

circa £32,000

You will have the skills to support this client group and the service through its infancy, to become an operationally full and sound service, whilst shaping the service for its future. Responsibilities will include:

- To ensure that the care, welfare and well-being of residents is central in the planning and delivery of service provision, whilst developing and maintaining strong links between the service and external professionals.
- To manage the transition of service users moving into the service, ensuring that transition plans are adhered to. Whilst ensuring that appropriate behavioural management plans are in place together with sufficient levels of appropriately trained staff.
- To maintain an up-to-date working knowledge of relevant National Minimum Standards and regulations and current best practice in relation to Forensic Care, Mental Health and Learning Disability Services.
- To lead and motivate a highly motivated staff team. through timely recruitment, induction, training and performance management.
- To ensure that the service's budget is managed efficiently. You will need to hold an NVQ Level 4 in Care (or equivalent) and be willing to work towards RMA or NVQ 4 in Management, You will need to have had previous experience of working with challenging behaviour and have a sound knowledge of forensic care and the Mental Health Act (1983).

DEPUTY HOME MANAGER (Ref: 2429)

£21,450, 37.5 hours per week

As the Deputy Home Manager, you will provide essential support to the Home Manager. You will have proven leadership skills to enable and empower the team to deliver the highest quality of care and support. You will hold NVQ Level 3 (or equivalent) and have relevant experience within the field of learning disability, with a commitment to develop those skills further.

SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS (Ref: 2430)

£8.50 - £9.50 per hour, 37.5 hours per week

As a Senior Support Worker, your role will be one of assisting in the managing of the service and taking a lead role in supporting individuals with learning disabilities. We require highly motivated, enthusiastic individuals to play an active part in this service through a person centred approach. You will need to be qualified to NVQ Level 3 (or equivalent) or be willing to work towards this.

All the above positions attract an excellent benefits package including life assurance, childcare vouchers scheme and lifestyle discounts through youatwork.co.uk inc. holidays and shopping.

INTERESTED? We would welcome the opportunity of meeting with you at our Open Evening on Tuesday 7th April 2009 between 5pm – 8.30pm at Voyage, Rockingham Road, Corby, Northamptonshire, NN17 1EB. You will be able to meet with Voyage staff and discuss the real rewards and challenges of working within this newly commissioned service as well as discovering your true potential and the career development we can offer you.

To book your place and request an application pack please call our Divisional Office on: 0114 242 9797.

Closing date for applications: 17th April 2009. Interviews will be held on: 27th, 28th and 29th April 2009.

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Joining one of FOD's regional offices, not only will you carry out the full range of administrative duties but will handle complex telephone casework within a supportive team environment. You will also provide support in a variety of ways to assist inspectors in their work.

With proven administrative abilities, you'll already be familiar with using MS Office. Naturally outgoing, you must have lots of initiative, be able to work unsupervised and be team focused. A first-class communicator, you'll also be flexible in your approach and know how to manage a constantly changing workload.

For further information and to apply, please visit: www.hse.gov.uk/careers and click on job profiles and current vacancies.

Closing date: 24 April 2009.

HSE is committed to equality of opportunity for all staff and applications from individuals are encouraged regardless of disability, gender, marital status, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, sexual orientation, age, working pattern, religion and/or belief.



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We are currently looking to recruit a Field Sales Representative to join the busy sales team in our Kettering office and represent a portfolio of market leading titles and websites.

Your duties will include:

- To maintain and develop business with existing customers in the area
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- · Maintain a high-level customer service.

The ideal candidates will be enthusiastic, highly motivated be able to work on their own initiative and as part of a team, good communication skills and basic computer literacy. Previous sales experience is an advantage but

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This is a full time position. If you feel you have the right qualities to turn this opportunity into a promising career, please forward your CV to:

Andrew Naylor

Field Sales manager

Northamptonshire Newspapers, Newspaper House, Ise Park, Rothwell Road Kettering, Northants, NN168GA **Email:** andy.naylor@northantsnews.co.uk

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Workbridge, Healthcare Governance Directorate, Northampton

Operations Manager - SM1

Ref: CE130

Salary: Circa £40,000 pa Hours: Full-time

The Workbridge Centre in Northampton has been operating as a charity for over 25 years. Workbridge facilitates a range of work-related and leisure activities for people with mental health needs, learning difficulties and acquired brain injuries. The main objective is to support people to achieve their potential in moving toward and into employment, and to promote mental and physical well being through the activities provided. On 1 April 2009, Workbridge will merge with St Andrew's Healthcare and we look forward to a collaborative working relationship, building on areas of expertise.

We are looking to appoint an Operations Manager who will be responsible for the effective day to day operational management of Workbridge, including the development of the overall strategic direction of the Workbridge services, being responsible for the implementation of the business plan and managing a team of over thirty staff. Key aspects of the role include developing the Workbridge services so they are business focussed, high calibre and meet the diverse needs of our Service Users from St Andrew's Healthcare and the community.

Applicants need to have experience in operational management, managing projects from initiation through to completion, line managing teams of staff, budget and change management. A sound understanding of marketing principles and up-to-date knowledge of the current market environment is necessary. The ability to construct business cases for various areas of on and off site service development where sound analysis and judgements are required are important aspects of

In order to apply, and view the job description and person specification please visit our website at www.stah.org, or email recruitment@standrew.co.uk, or telephone our recruitment office on (01604) 616589 (24 hour answer-phone).

Please quote the appropriate reference number in all correspondence

Closing date: Friday 24 April 2009. Interview date: Tuesday 12 May 2009.

The charity has a commitment to the future of mental health care. The St Andrew's Academic Centre at Northampton, part of The Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, is dedicated to world-class research and teaching. St Andrew's works closely with the University of Northampton and other leading universities in training mental health professionals for the nation

Our benefits include:

Subsidised Staff Restaurant • Subsidised childcare facilities

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St Andrew's

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Excellent time management skills and a good knowledge of property repairs

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EMB Ltd is one of the fastest growing businesses in the East Midlands. We provide a range of business support services to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and larger organisations across the region including the Business Link service on behalf of the East Midlands Development Agency and the East Midlands

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£24,000-£32,000 - Northamptonshire (Ref BSBNN)

All businesses have aspirations. You will engage with local businesses to assist them to identify current and future business improvement needs by offering independent and impartial advice. You will also produce a comprehensive action plan following a review with a business, which will encourage growth and stimulate the business' performance.

Part of the role will require you to attend networking meetings and events to raise awareness of Business Link services.

Your history will need to show empathy and understanding of business gained from either working in or advising organisations in the private, public or third sector. Knowledge of Balanced Scorecard and organisational development tools/awards i.e. IiP, EFQM, NTA

To be successful you must work well in a team environment whilst being a self-starter with plenty of initiative and flexibility. What you are known for is outstanding communication, listening, diagnostic, influencing and negotiating skills.

Travel throughout the region is to be expected, a full driving licence and own car is essential. Please note these roles may be subject to a CRB check.



Please contact us at hr@embltd.co.uk for further information, a full job description or to send us your CV and a persuasive letter using the job reference above. www.embltd.co.uk Closing date 17th April 2009. No agencies please.

EMB Ltd

Marketing Manager

(Maternity Cover)

£30 - £35,000 per annum Location: Corby, Northamptonshire

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NNDC's work, and this step change for the area, has been successfully driven by award winning marketing activity. We are seeking a creative, self-motivated and resourceful marketing professional to provide maternity cover over the next 12 months as we continue to implement our strategic marketing plans to attract business, investment and people to North Northamptonshire. You will call on 5 years of marketing experience, excellent communication skills and a degree-level education to deliver in a hands-on role planning, managing and executing across the marketing mix.

If you are interested in joining our team, please contact Nick Bolton, Director of Investment & Marketing for more

01536 274979 or email nickbolton@nndev.co.uk

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Required to support clients in their own homes throughout Northamptonshire. Full or Part Time.

Full Training given.
Applicants must be caring, trustworthy, be able to work on your own and be wholly reliable. We provide in-house aining, NVQ training after qualifying period, holiday pay, company mobile. Excellent rates of pay including

mileage. (Weekend vacancies are also available). Owner drivers essential.

NB All applicants will be referenced and CRB checked.

For more information and application pack please call Gill on 01536 414827



Due to re-organisation we are seeking a candidate for the part time role of

Finance/Management Accounts

Rushden, Northamptonshire

Candidates should ideally suit the following criteria:

- Minimum 4 years experience of working in Finance roll.
- Part qualified or working towards AAT / CIMA / ACCA
- Experience of management accounts, ledger entries and payroll.
- Thorough knowledge of Sage, Excel, Word and Outlook.

Please Contact:

Stuart Page 01933 351 090 or email your CV to



First Call Project Worker

Salary: £5,493 p.a. Location: Northamptonshire Hours: 16 hrs pw - 12 month temporary contract

The British Red Cross helps people in crisis.

We are seeking an enthusiastic person to assist with providing this new service across Northamptonshire, providing practical and emotional support to help people maintain independence at home.

A key part of the role will be to develop a package of support for the service user within their own home. You will also accept referrals from hospitals and other services, assess the aftercare needs of the service user and signpost them to other agencies where necessary. You will help promote the scheme within the local area, maintain records relating to the scheme whilst supporting our volunteers.

You will be required to work closely with existing and new volunteers, potential service users and other agencies, therefore excellent communication skills are required as well as pc skills. You must be able to plan your own workload, have a caring and friendly disposition whilst also being able to work as part of a successful team. A driving licence and the use of a car is a requirement as some travel is required with the area.

Apply on-line: www.redcross.org.uk/vacancies Alternatively telephone 0845 054 7171 or e-mail cmartini@redcross.org.uk for an application pack Closing date Wednesday 22 April 2009. Interview date: Tuesday 28 April 2009.

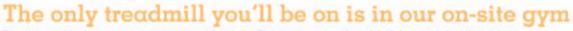
We are committed to welcoming people from the widest possible diversity of background, culture and experience.

As part of the recruitment and selection process the Red Cross undertakes CRB checking of all individuals who have regular contact with children and vulnerable adults.

The British Red Cross, incorporated by Royal Charter 1908, is a charity registered in England and Wales (220949) and Scotland (SC037738).











Button shines in Grand Prix

Sun, Mar 29 – Jenson Button steered the new Brawn GP team to victory in the team's first race as the F1 season began in Australia Sport

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At-a-glance sport...

Blues force way to final Sat, Mar 28 –

Northampton Saints fell at the semi-final stage of the EDF Energy Cup as they lost 11-5 to Cardiff Blues



'I'm tired of test series'

Sun, Mar 29 – Kevin Pietersen stunned colleagues when he said he had had enough of the West Indies tour and wanted to come home

Accolade for Beckham

Sat, Mar 28 – Former England skipper David Beckham (right) beat Bobby Moore's outfield record by getting his 109th cap

Business as usual as Carlos returns

SAINTS captain Bruce Reihana said there will be little time for pleasantries when Carlos Spencer returns to Franklin's Gardens with Gloucester on Saturday.

Spencer comes back to town for the first time since he moved to Kingsholm at the end of January.

The All Blacks legend had found himself reduced to the bench towards the end of his reign at Northampton and decided he had had enough.

It didn't take him long to find a new club and he has been earning rave reviews for Gloucester ever since.

Spencer was cup-tied for the Cherry & Whites' EDF Energy Cup semi-final win over the Ospreys on Saturday, so will be coming to the Gardens fresh and with plenty to prove to his old club.

Reihana is looking forward to doin but the with his old mute but does not

Reihana is looking forward to doing battle with his old mate, but does not think there will be much banter flying around.

"It will be business as usual," said Reihana. "Heads down and get stuck in and the best team will win on the day. "We know he is going to come back on

"We know he is going to come back on top form. He has been playing really well for Gloucester, so we will have to keep an eye on him and keep our defensive line solid. We know how he can create space for the backs and will take every opportunity he gets."

While Gloucester will be buoyed by a date at Twickenham in the EDF Energy Cup final, Saints have to lift themselves after their semi-final defeat to Cardiff.

their semi-final defeat to Cardiff. Reihana, though, feels Gloucester will provide plenty of motivation for Saints to get straight back to business in the Premiership.

"They will be looking on their final and they have to concentrate on the league at the same time as they have slipped down a spot," said Reihana.

"Gloucester have got a fantastic side, they will be said to the same time as they have slipped down a spot," said Reihana.

"Gloucester have got a fantastic side, they will use the cup final to build on and come to Franklin's Gardens to knock us over. We've got to keep our heads up and certainly work very hard this week, because we are back at home and we want to make a statement as well."



'We need to play with 11 soldiers'

THE Cobblers have a 10-day break in which to regroup before tackling the most critical games of their season.

With only seven League One games remaining, Northampton Town find themselves deep in trouble in the relegation zone having failed to beat three of their fellow strugglers in the past fortnight.

A defeat against Swindon and a draw against Carlisle was followed by a disastrous 1-0 reverse at Yeovil Town on Tuesday night, the Somerset side swapping places with the Cobblers into the safety zone. And manager Stuart Gray is eager to get his men in fighting mood before the end-of-season run-in that includes tough games against MK Dons and Leeds United.

He said: "I've got artists and soldiers in the squad and maybe at this moment in time I need to be putting 11 soldiers out there. We've got to get the balance right.

"We've got to get in other teams' faces more and be more committed when we go in for 50-50 balls because there wasn't enough of that on

We've got to get the balance right.
"We have to now stand up and be counted.
"We've got to get in other teams' faces more

Tuesday night. I've got every confidence in the players here that they do have that fight in them

"We've been to some big grounds and got some big results. Other teams seem to do well out of adversity and we've got to do that now as well."

The Cobblers began Tuesday evening one place ahead of the relegation zone, above Yeovil only on goal difference, but any hope of moving clear were undone by a Jonathan Obika goal. Northampton next play on Good Friday at mid-table Bristol Rovers.



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